

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A virtual on-demand electronic book system,
comprising:

a main memory located at a local library that stores electronic books for delivery to electronic book viewers of subscribers in the system via at least one of an internet network, a cable telephone network, and a broadcasting network, wherein the electronic books are received from at least one remote provider, and each of the electronic book viewers of the subscribers includes a local memory;

a queuing processor coupled to the main memory that receives electronic book orders from the subscribers and determines a queue location for an ordered electronic book, wherein each electronic book is divided into a plurality of sections;

first queues that temporarily store first sections of electronic books; and

second queues that temporarily store second sections of electronic books,

wherein the electronic books include order-on-demand electronic books and predetermined popular electronic books selected based on one of a request rate and a promotion level, the order-on-demand electronic books are received from the at least one remote provider upon requests from the subscribers and the popular electronic books are pre-loaded into at least one of the main memory and the local memory of the electronic book viewers of the subscribers,

wherein the first sections of electronic books are delivered to the subscribers without charge and the second sections of electronic books are delivered when an order for the electronic books is made by a subscriber, [[and]]

wherein the first sections of the electronic books stored in the local memory of the electronic book viewer are deleted if the second sections of the electronic books are not requested by the subscriber after a predetermined period of time, and

~~wherein the local memory of the electronic book viewer is updated to fill empty storage space in the local memory with the first sections of electronic books that are likely to be viewed by the subscriber.~~

wherein the first queues further include a true on-demand first sections queue, a popular content first sections queue; and

wherein the second queues further include a true on-demand second sections queue and a popular content second sections queue, in which the true on-demand first section queue has a highest priority.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a priority queue server coupled to the first and the second queues, wherein the priority queue server empties the first and the second queues based on a priority model.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the priority model comprises instructions to

empty the on-demand first section queue and the popular content first section queue, the on-demand second sections queue and the popular content second sections queue in a round robin manner.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the priority model includes a timing module, wherein the timing module determines a time an electronic book is stored in the first and the second queues and wherein when a maximum time is exceeded, the priority queue server transmits the electronic book out of order.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the priority model comprises instructions to

determine a length of each queue; and

transmit an electronic book from a queue having a longest length.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the priority model comprises instructions to

search queues for electronic book orders of a same electronic book or a same section of the ordered electronic book; and

broadcast completed electronic book orders simultaneously to the subscribers in the system.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, further comprising:

an Internet web site;

a web server coupled to the Internet web site;

a delivery server coupled to the web server; and

a transaction server coupled to the web server, wherein the queuing processor receives electronic book orders from the transaction server and the delivery server receives ordered electronic books from the queue priority server.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a service time guarantee; and

a network coupling the processor to an associated data processing system, wherein the processor determines a pending service time, wherein if the pending service time exceeds the guarantee, the processor establishes a connection with the associated data processing system, and wherein the associated data processing system processes electronic book orders.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an electronic book viewer comprising:

a receiver that receives electronic books,

a transmitter that transmits electronic book orders, and

a memory coupled to the receiver that stores the electronic books; and

a processor coupled to the receiver and the memory that controls

processing on the electronic book viewer, wherein the receiver receives broadcasts of first sections of electronic books and stores the first sections in the memory.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein when a first section stored in the memory is accessed, the processor generates an order for a corresponding second section, and the transmitter transmits the order.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein a first section of the electronic book includes a link, wherein when the link is accessed, the processor generates an order for a corresponding second section of the electronic book.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic books comprise an electronic version of one or more of a printed book, a magazine, a catalog, a periodical and a newspaper.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein specified electronic books are broadcast on a cyclical basis.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein first sections of specified electronic books are broadcast on a cyclical basis.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the first sections to be broadcast are determined by reference to one of electronic books read data, demographic data, and subscriber preferences.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a virtual on-demand menu, the virtual on-demand menu broadcast with a broadcast of one of an electronic book and a first section of an electronic book, wherein the virtual on-demand menu lists electronic books available on the virtual on-demand electronic book system.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer system for distributing electronic books, comprising:

a memory located at a local library that stores the electronic books, wherein the electronic books include order-on-demand electronic books and pre-determined popular electronic books selected based on one of a request rate and a promotion level, the order-on-demand electronic books are loaded from the at least one remote provider upon a request from a subscriber and the popular electronic books are pre-loaded into at least one of the main memory and a local memory installed within an electronic book viewer of the subscriber;

a processor section that processes electronic book orders and that packages electronic books for delivery via at least one of an internet network, a cable telephone network, and a broadcasting network, wherein each electronic book is divided into a plurality of sections;

a queue section that stores the packaged electronic books; and

a queue server that empties the queue section based on a queue priority model,

wherein the queue section comprises a first queue section storing a first section of an electronic book and a second queue section storing a second section of the electronic book,

wherein the first section of the electronic book is delivered to the subscriber without charge and the second section of the electronic book are delivered when an order for the electronic books is made by the subscriber,

wherein the first sections of the electronic books stored in the local memory of the electronic book viewer are deleted if the second sections of the electronic books are not requested by the subscriber after a predetermined period of time, and

~~wherein the local memory of the electronic book viewer is updated to fill empty storage space in the local memory with the first sections of electronic books that are likely to be viewed by the subscriber.~~

wherein the first queues further include a true on-demand first sections queue, a popular content first sections queue; and

wherein the second queues further include a true on-demand second sections queue and a popular content second sections queue, in which the true on-demand first section queue has a highest priority.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 18, wherein the first queue section comprises an on-demand first section queue.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 20, wherein the first queue section further comprises a popular content first section queue.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 18, wherein the second queue section comprises:

an on-demand second section queue; and
a popular content second section queue.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 18, wherein the queue priority model comprises a queue servicing module, the queue servicing module receiving information regarding electronic books stored in the queue section, and

determining an order of delivery of the electronic books based on a location an electronic book in the queue section.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 23, wherein electronic books in an on-demand queue are delivered before delivery of electronic books in a cyclical queue.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 18, wherein the processor section determines when multiple electronic book orders are for a same electronic book, the processor section aggregating the multiple electronic book orders, and wherein the computer system simultaneously broadcasts multiple copies of the same electronic book.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 18, wherein first sections of selected electronic books are broadcast to subscribers of the system.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 25, wherein a second section queue includes second sections of selected electronic books.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein the second sections are delivered when ordered by subscribers of the computer system.

29. -79. (Canceled).